



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: _____ Complete: XXX Exploration: _____
Inspection Date & Time: 4/19/2001 8:00AM-4 PM
Date of Last Inspection: 01/16/2001

PHL
by
BO

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: C/097/038
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Plateau Mining Corporation
Business Address: 847 Northwest Highway 191, Helper, Utah 84526
Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface _____ Prep. Plant _____ Other _____
Company Official(s): Ms. Vicki Miller, Environmental Technician
State Official(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Sunny, clear, breezy; temperature in 30's -40's Fahrenheit
Existing Acreage: Permitted 14,670 Disturbed 161.55 Regraded _____ Seeded _____
Status: Active XXX

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
 - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4 th Quarter- April, May, June)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/038

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(COMMENTS ARE NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH TOPICS LISTED ABOVE)

Note: The permittee entered the Willow Creek Mine and Preparation Plant into temporary cessation status with the UDNR/OGM as of December 11, 2000. The work force has been reduced to a total of seven employees.

The ventilation fan pad area at the Mine site is still in a "dangered off" mode under MSHA jurisdiction. This area was not inspected.

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

The permittee currently has the following amendments under review within the UDNR/OGM.

- 1) AM01B, which is a revision to Sections 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, Exhibits 13 and 17, as they relate to the reclamation plan for the site. Section 5.2 deals with soil replacement plans. Section 5.3 deals with Habitat Restoration. Sections 5.4 and 5.5 deal consecutively with the reclamation of the mining disturbance and the restoration of the hydrologic resource. Internal review is pending.
- 2) SR01A, which is relative to a proposed change (Exhibit 20) in the post-mining land use in the Crandall Canyon area, as well as text and cross sections relative to the reclamation of the facilities area. Exhibit 20 also discusses leaving the primary access road (including several pre-reclamation cut slopes) as a part of the approved post-mining land use.
- 3) AM01C, is a revision to Map 18A which shows the Willow Creek permit area as it relates to several pre-SMCRA cut banks. The cut bank at the initial upgrade to School House Canyon was the bank of particular concern and Map 18A needed a revision relative to the location of the disturbed area perimeter along this cut slope. AM01C has a conditional approval in place, pending receipt of the adequate number of clean copies of Map 18A.
- 4) AM00L, is an amendment to remove two water monitoring locations due to the lack of importance of data which the two points would provide. AM00L also discusses the possibility of removing pH and conductivity from the required laboratory "to do" list. The permittee is also proposing to remove the dissolved oxygen parameter from analyses lists for samples which are not relative to streams involving fisheries.

4A. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS

During the course of the April 19, 2001 field inspection, the following diversions were noted as being in need of maintenance:

- 1) The two inlets ditches to pond 011A require shaping.
- 2) In Gravel Canyon, the access road water bar on the NW side of the topsoil pile needs enhancement.
- 3) In Crandall Canyon, the spring freeze/thaw cycles have deposited rocks in many of the ditches which provide drainage along the primary access road. Also, two minor slumps have occurred in the main surface facilities area filling a ditch located on the south side of the Canyon WSW of the #1 air shaft.

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- 4) The drainage ditch along the access road to the short tunnel (main Mine facilities) is blocked with ten-inch vinyl pipe which has previously been stored along it. Somehow, several lengths of this large diameter pipe have managed to roll into the ditch, blocking it.
- 5) Tumble weeds were noted in several culvert inlets. Ms. Miller indicated that she has been using a weed burner to remove these such that they will not impede flows. Spring winds have prevented the use of burning on several occasions.

4B. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

The first quarter 2001 impoundment inspections for the site were conducted during February and March. Ponds 002, 011, 012A, 012B, the raw water process pond, and the thickener pond were inspected on February 22, 2001 with no hazardous conditions or signs of instability being reported. Pond 013A and 001A were inspected on March 15 and 19 respectively.

Ponds 014 and 015 (lower and upper ponds in Crandall Canyon) were not inspected during the first quarter due to inaccessibility (snow accumulation on the access road). During the April 19, 2001 field inspection of the Crandall Canyon area, there were no problems noted with either pond.

Pond 013A, which is located at the base of the School House Canyon refuse disposal facility, is classified as an MSHA pond. Pond 013A has received a variance in the inspection frequency and is inspected on a monthly basis, rather than on a weekly basis. The permittee performs the monthly inspection on this pond in regular fashion, as noted from their inspection book. There were no hazards or signs of instability noted by Mr. Roland Tallerico, certified MSHA impoundment inspector, during the April 12, 2001 inspection.

Ms. Vicki Miller indicated to this individual on April 23, 2001 that documentation of a phone call with MSHA exists which shows that it is no longer necessary for the permittee to renew the variance in inspection frequency for pond 013A every year. Although inspections are performed every thirty days, the variance has several stipulations which require that other inspections of the pond be made (i.e., after any seismic activity, etc.) in order to keep the variance. There were no problems noted with pond 013A on April 19, 2001.

4C. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES

All of the silt fences which were inspected this day appeared to be capable of functioning as designed.

4D. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING

The permittee is currently entering water monitoring data for the first quarter of 2001 into the computer.

Second quarter water monitoring sampling is scheduled to be initiated in April and completed by May 2001.

The fourth quarter 2000 water monitoring report for the Willow Creek site was reviewed this day. Sites which were reported as dry include B25, B26, B361, B362, B351, B352, B261, and B262. Sample points B131 and B241 were not sampled due to no access (locked gate on private land). The permittee currently has an amendment under review in the Salt Lake Office to remove these two monitoring points on the basis that the information which they provide is not felt important relative to the monitoring of the surface/groundwater hydrologic regime.

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Monitoring points which were sampled had their analytical regimes reviewed. All samples which were checked were correctly analyzed relative to their required parameters. Several sample points were monitored on December 12, 2000, which was the second time that they were monitored during the fourth quarter. Sample points B211, B151, and B3N were noted as being frozen and snow covered.

The Willow Creek mining and reclamation plan requires (ACT/007/039-99H) that a stream survey be conducted in Mathis Canyon during the fourth monitoring quarter. The stream survey was conducted in October 2000, with the following sample points being monitored: M1 (same point as B351), M-2 through M-6, and stock ponds #1, 2, and 3.

UPDES discharge monitoring reports for the fourth quarter of 2000 as well as the months of January and February 2001 were reviewed. None of the permitted discharge points at the Willow Creek site (including Crandall Canyon) had outfalls during the five month period. All reports were submitted in a timely fashion.

7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS

The fourth quarter 2000 and the first quarter 2001 School House Canyon waste rock disposal facility inspection was conducted by Mr. John Borla, Utah registered professional engineer on December 8, 2000, and March 30, 2001, respectively. There were no hazardous conditions or signs of instability noted by Mr. Borla during either of the permittee's inspections. Both inspection reports were P.E. certified by Mr. Borla.

There were no hazardous conditions or signs of instability noted during the April 19, 2001 field inspection of the waste rock facility. There is no impounded water on the surface of the pile. All drainage diversions appeared to be capable of functioning as designed. There were no fires or noncoal waste observed on the surface of the pile.

8. NONCOAL WASTE

Minor amounts of noncoal waste were observed in the vicinity of the run-of-mine coal stacking tube and its associated pad area. Ms. Miller indicated that she would pick up the trash as soon as possible.

9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

The permittee does not intend to conduct a raptor survey this year.

14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL

The permittee submitted the annual subsidence report as Appendix B of the annual report on February 7, 2001. The subsidence monitoring network is based on six control points on the Utah State Plane Coordinate System and the NAD 1927 sea level datum. One hundred fifty-eight monitoring points were established in 1997, as depicted on Drawing 1.

The Willow Creek Mine was idled shortly after August 1, 2000. At that time, longwall extraction was occurring in the D-3 panel. Analysis of the affected monitoring sites shows that a maximum subsidence of -1.48 feet occurred at point BC13, due to the extraction of the D-1 panel during 1998. Only 250 feet of panel had been extracted from the D-3 panel when the Mine was idled.

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The subsidence report also contains information relative to the required monitoring of the Barn Canyon diversion CGD-5. Three points are monitored, with very little deflection occurring at any of the three points.

15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS

The permittee placed the Willow Creek Mine under temporary cessation status on December 11, 2000. There has been no change in that status up to this point.

18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS

During the course of the April 19, 2001 field inspection, it was observed that the gates of the cyclone fence around the Barn Canyon electrical substation were wide open. It was suggested to the permittee that the gates be locked to keep unauthorized personnel out. Ms. Vicki Miller reported that this had been accomplished as of April 23, 2001.

21. BONDING AND INSURANCE

The permittee's general liability insurance remains in effect until June 30, 2001. Damage due to the use of explosives is covered, although all explosive and detonator storage magazines as well as product have been removed from the Willow Creek site.

The permittee's \$11,949,205.00 bond remains in effect.

Inspector's Signature: _____



Peter Hess #46

Date: April 24, 2001

Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining.

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cc: James Fulton, OSM
Johnny Pappas, Plateau
Price Field office

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